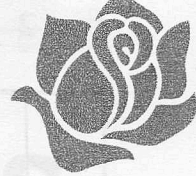


# Roseville Legend



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## Stoneware of All Kinds: Roseville's Burton Pottery

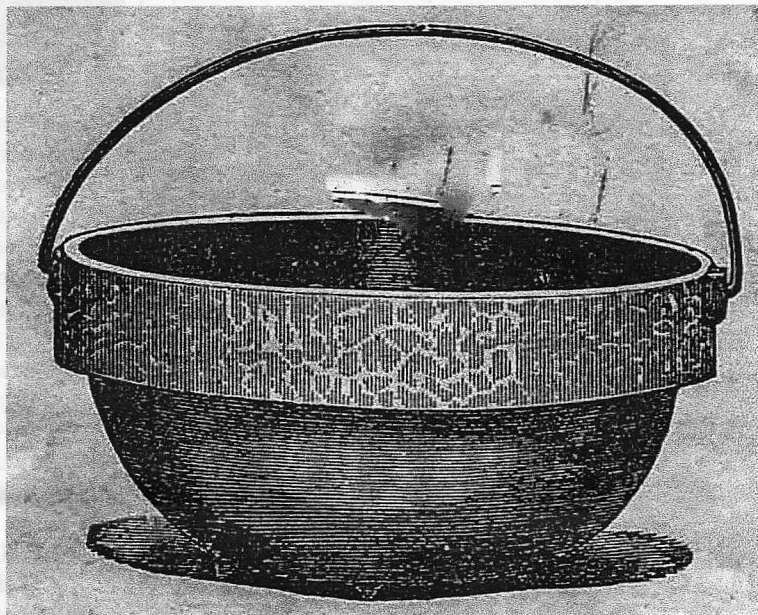
By James L. Murphy

One of the least known of Roseville's many potteries was a small, one-kiln affair operated by **John Burton** (1837-1927). The pottery stood on the north side of Second Street (Wilson Road) and the east side of the C. & M. V. Railroad, directly behind the Presbyterian Church.

Burton's pottery is identified in the 1875 Perry County Atlas and is also shown in the 1889 and 1895 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Roseville. Unfortunately, no known examples of his ware are known and it is very likely that none of them were marked. According to the Ohio Factory Inspector's Reports, in 1889 Burton made "stew pots, etc.," employing four males; in 1892 the product is listed as "cooking ware" and three males and one minor were employed.

A recently acquired piece of letterhead dated July, 1891, provides some idea of what Burton's product may have looked like. The invoice is to a **Mr. Wm. C. Leavitt** and shows a bale-handled cooking crock with what may be some kind of textured rim and several peg-like feet. For a total of \$35.25, Mr. Leavitt was sent six dozen 6 quart cooking crocks, nine dozen of 4 quart capacity, and 9 dozen of 2 quart capacity. It would be interesting to know where Mr. Leavitt resided, but the 1900 census indicates two possible merchants with that name: one a 41-year old Massachusetts native operating a meat and provisions store in Dover, New Hampshire; the other a 46-year-old hardware merchant in Norway, Maine. Both seem possible purveyors of Burton's cooking crocks but, regardless, it is interesting that Roseville cooking-ware was being sold as far away as the New England region.

The invoice, however, is on letterhead not of John Burton but of **F. M. Burton**, "shipper of stoneware of all kinds, cooking crocks a specialty, Roseville, O." It develops that **Francis Marion Burton** was a younger brother of **John Burton**, born August 6,



A Burton Pottery bale-handled cooking crock with what may be some kind of textured rim and several peg-like feet. [Photo courtesy of James L. Murphy.]

1849, both sons of **Isaac** and **Sarah Burton**. Their father was a farmer, born in Massachusetts while their mother, **Sarah Denny Burton**, born in Pennsylvania, made a living as a weaver after her husband's relatively early death in March 1853. In addition to John, **Francis M.** had brothers **William**, **Robert D.**, **George F.**, and **Joseph**, as well as sisters **Mary**, **Martha**, and **Phebe Ann**.

The year 1860 found twelve-year-old **Marion** living with his elder brother **George Burton** and wife **Mary Jane** in Putnam, while brother **John** was spending a few years in Sacramento, California. By 1870 **John** was back in Roseville as a "Laborer" and **Marion** was living with their widowed mother in Roseville, where he was a "coal digger". The coal dust didn't seem to bother **Mary Mildred Jeffries** (1856-1932), however, who married **Marion** in 1874, and by 1880 **Marion Burton** was listed as "pottery and carpenter," with wife and three children.

By 1900 **Frances Marion Burton** was a baker in Zanesville, although he was back in Roseville at the time of

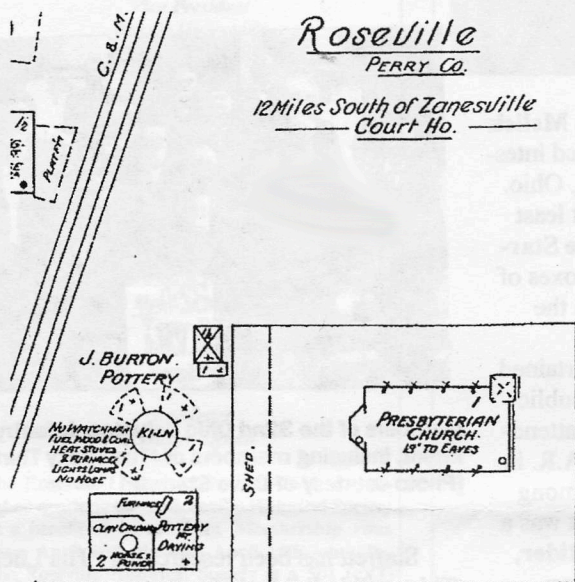
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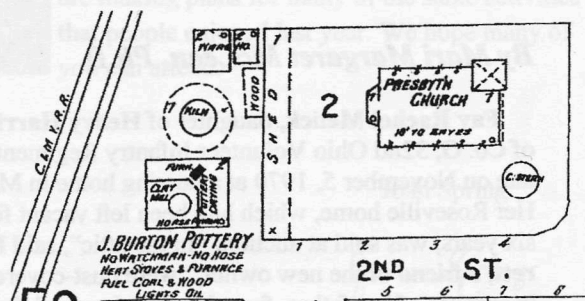
## Stoneware of All Kinds: Roseville's Burton Pottery (Continued from Page 1)

his death, December 18 1909; wife **Mary** lived until 1932. Interestingly, their daughter **Mary Lou Burton Swingle** (1886-1976) for many years worked as stenographer and secretary at the **Brush Pottery**. **John Burton** continued his pottery at least until 1900 but had retired by 1910 and died September 13, 1927, in Columbus, at the age of ninety. All of these Burtons rest in the Roseville Cemetery.



1889 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

F.M. Burton letterhead dated July, 1891, is addressed to Mr. Wm C. Leavitt. The letterhead states "Cooking Crocks a Specialty." [Photo courtesy of James L. Murphy.]



1895 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

